

paying the tax on the actual purchase price by manipulating the value of the trade-in car. The Commission required an affidavit from the dealer stating that the figure on the report represented the actual sales price. The auditor recommended that a certified copy of the bill of sale be sent in by the dealers in order to close any possible chance of dishonesty. The Commission felt that this was not necessary in order to enforce the law and would be an added expense in paper work. The dispute was brought before the comptroller by both parties and a procedure was worked out.

Because of the press of business, the auditor's office discourages cities and counties from making reports for audits. Most of these jurisdictions have independent certified public accountants do the audit, and reports are sent to the state auditor who reviews them. Often he requests more information and criticizes the reports. The state auditor can initiate audits in counties and towns. It was, at one time, limited to towns of over 2,500 population, but this restriction was recently lifted.

According to the chief deputy auditor, the office is separate from the comptroller and is not really dependent upon him. This independence is necessary since the auditor examines the comptroller's books. However, he felt that the comptroller's office is the logical office to enforce the auditor's report.

The auditor does not examine the books and accounts of the Maryland Port Authority or of the Metropolitan Transit Authority because these divisions cross state and local jurisdictions. An independent certified public accounting firm does the auditing and sends reports to the auditor and comptroller. The auditor takes turns with representatives of Wash-

ington and Virginia in auditing the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority. He makes a joint audit with a representative of Virginia of the Potomac River Commission. The Flag Centennial was jointly audited with Baltimore City.

The following sections from Article 19 of the ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND describe the office of the state auditor and its duties:

"Section 29. IN GENERAL.

(a) *Appointment, oath, term and salary; deputy and assistant auditors; powers and duties generally; bonds.*—

There shall be a State Auditor appointed by the Governor, who shall be assigned to the division of financial review and control, and shall take the oath prescribed by the Constitution. His term of office shall commence on the first Monday of May next ensuing his appointment, and continue for four years, until his successor shall be appointed and shall have qualified. The State Auditor shall receive such salary as may be fixed in the budget.

The State Auditor shall appoint a deputy and such assistant State auditors as he may deem necessary in accordance with the provisions of Article 64A, who shall receive such salaries as the State Auditor deems necessary, subject to the provisions of the budget. The State Auditor, the deputy State auditor and the assistant State auditors, under the supervision and direction of the Comptroller, shall have and exercise all the rights, powers, duties, obligations and functions conferred upon them by law. The State Auditor, the deputy State auditor, and each of the regular assistant State auditors will, upon entering the duties of their respective offices, be covered by surety bonds in accordance with the